



To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: Dr. Kelly J. Calhoun, Director
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06
Date: September 5, 2008

The Folsom Cordova Unified School District would like to add its voice in strong support of the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the Schools and Libraries E-Rate program.

Improving communications between and among educators, students, and parents can play a vital role in improving educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. Telephone broadcast messaging offers significant advantages and benefits over the less efficient means which schools traditionally had to use to reach out to students and parents, such as hand-delivered written notices and phone tree messages.

For example, we use telephone broadcast messaging as a means of contacting parents regarding **absent or truant students**, thereby facilitating increased classroom attendance. We also use it to notify and inform parents of **testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences**, and to otherwise **increase participation by parents** in their children's education. These clearly have a significant impact on the quality of education experienced by our students.

Telephone broadcast messaging is almost a mandatory requirement for school districts today in that it can provide an important **emergency response** resource in the event of weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations. While considered helpful in the past, today, it's a must.

In enacting the E-rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support their educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-rate program's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Calhoun

Dr. Kelly J. Calhoun, Director
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